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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/740,908	12/19/2000	Kathryn L. Parker	MS155646.1/40062.87-US-01	5955

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Homer L. Knearl
Merchant & Gould P.C
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER

CHANDRASEKHAR, PRANAV

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2115

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/740,908

Applicant(s)

PARKER, KATHRYN L.

Examiner

Pranav Chandrasekhar

Art Unit

2115

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amendments filed on 18 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are presented for examination.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action.
3. Claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Launzel [US Pat No. 4,179,733].

This rejection is respectfully maintained as set forth in the last office action and reproduced infra for applicant's convenience.

4. As per claims 1 and 11, Launzel teaches
receiving an internally generated locking signal [col. 3 lines 51-57].
setting a locked flag to indicate the user input elements are locked [col. 4 lines 2-5];
ignoring input signals when the locked flag is set [col. 4 lines 30-33; col. 5 lines 18-20].

5. As per claims 5 and 14, Launzel teaches the internal generation of a locking signal following a predetermined time interval wherein the predetermined time interval is managed by the timer. [col. 3 lines 51-57]

6. As per claim 10, Launzel teaches a computer system that comprises:
user interface input elements. [col. 2 lines 42-44]
a processing unit for recognizing user interface input signals. [col. 2 lines 42-50]
a locking application for locking the user interface elements, wherein the processing unit ignores user interface input signals when the user interface elements are locked and

wherein the locking application receives an internally generated lock signal. [col. 5 lines 11-20; col. 3 lines 51-57].

7. Claims 2-4, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Launzel et al. [US Pat No. 4179733] in view of Martensson [US Pat No. 5241583].

This rejection is respectfully maintained as set forth in the last office action and reproduced infra for applicant's convenience.

8. As per claims 2 and 12, Launzel teaches the internal generation of a locking signal following which the keyboard of a computer enters a lockout mode in which a locked flag is set. In this mode, the computer system ignores all input signals from the keyboard for a predetermined period of time after it has entered the lockout mode. Launzel does not explicitly teach the manual unlocking of the keyboard using a correct combination of keystrokes (i.e. input signals) of the keyboard.

Martensson teaches:

determining whether input signals relate to an unlock signal [col. 5 lines 10-21]

if input signals do not relate to an unlock signal, ignore the input signal. [col. 5 lines 10-21]

if input signals relate to an unlock signal, unlocking the user input elements. [col. 5 lines 10-21]

In summary, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art that Martensson's concept of manually unlocking the user interface has been combined with the teachings

of Launzel mentioned earlier since it would be advantageous for the user of the computing device to be able to remove the user input interface from the lockout mode manually as opposed to waiting for the predetermined period of time of the lockout.

9. As per claim 3, Launzel teaches a method in which a locking signal is internally generated followed by the setting of a locked flag. All input signals received from the keyboard are ignored as long as the locked flag is set. Launzel does not explicitly teach a method of determining whether consecutive input signals from the user interface relate to an unlocking signal wherein the signals (a result of the button presses) are received within a predetermined period.

Martensson teaches a method wherein button presses create the input signals and the act of determining whether the input signals relate to an unlock signal comprises:

determining whether the button presses occur within a predetermined time period [col. 6 lines 2-7].

In summary, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art that the teachings of Launzel have been combined with Martensson's concept of determining if input signals occurring within a predetermined time period relate to an unlocking signal. It would be advantageous for the input signals to be received within a predetermined period of time to prevent inadvertent unlocking of the user input interface.

10. As per claim 4, Launzel does not explicitly teach a method wherein a message is displayed indicating that the user input interface is locked. Martensson teaches a display message indicating that the user input elements are locked. [col. 5 lines 24-28]

In summary, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art that the teachings of

Launzel have been combined with those of Martensson since it would be advantageous for the user to know that the user input interface is locked without having to attempt using the interface.

11. Claims 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Launzel [US Pat No. 4179733] in view of Keen [US Pat No. 5526422].

This rejection is respectfully maintained as set forth in the last office action and reproduced infra for applicant's convenience.

Launzel substantially teaches a method wherein a locking signal is internally generated and locked flag is set in a locked mode followed by input signals from the keyboard being ignored as long as the locked flag is set. Launzel's method teaches a keyboard as the user interface element that is locked. Martensson does not teach a method in which the user interface element being locked is a touch screen.

Keen teaches an invention in which the user input element is a touch-screen. While Keen does not explicitly state the internal generation of a locking signal or the setting of a locked flag, his method incorporates the concept of a "clean screen" mode (screen lockout mode) in which the processor of the device ignores all signals received from the touch screen module [col. 5 lines 46-50].

In summary, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art that the teachings of Launzel have been combined with Keen's teachings that incorporate the use of a touch screen as the user input element for his invention.

12. Claims 7 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Launzel [US Pat No. 4179733] in view of Borgendale et al [US Pat No. 6457132].

Launzel substantially teaches a method wherein a locking signal is internally generated and locked flag is set following which input signals from the keyboard are ignored as long as the locked flag is set. Launzel does not explicitly teach a method wherein the computer device comprises a calendar-type application program that internally generates a locking signal in response to a predetermined event. Hence, Launzel's teachings do not include the lockout mode being controlled by a calendar-type application program.

Borgendale teaches a method in which a calendar-type application program comprises of a calendar that has event entries. A specific power management mode is associated with each of these event entries. During the operation of the computer system, when a certain time and date for an entry is reached, the calendar automatically sends the corresponding power management event to the operating system manager. Hence, the mode of power consumption may be altered depending on predetermined event entries in a calendar [col. 3 lines 27-32; col. 3 lines 44-47; col. 3 lines 51-54; col. 3 lines 63-65; col. 4 lines 19-23; col. 5 lines 26-34].

A calendar-type application program similar to that taught by Borgendale may be employed to automatically set the user input interface into a lockout mode by associating event entries in a calendar with a lockout mode.

In summary, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art that the teachings of Launzel have been combined with Borgendale's concept of controlling the power mode of a device by a calendar-type application program containing predetermined event entries to facilitate the automatic generation of a locking signal by a calendar-type

Art Unit: 2115

application program.

13. Claims 6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Launzel [US Pat No. 4,179,733] in view of Pearce et al [US Pat No. 5,617,572].

Launzel does not explicitly teach the predetermined interval relating to a sleep mode time interval.

Pearce teaches a system in which a predetermined interval relates to a sleep mode (reduced power consumption mode) time interval wherein the I/O devices are monitored for activity during for a predetermined period of time. In the event that there is no activity of the I/O device during this time interval, the device enters a reduced power consumption mode (sleep mode) [col. 10 lines 21-43].

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Launzel and Pearce by enabling the device to enter a sleep mode after a predetermined time of inactivity in order to conserve power during periods of inactivity.

14. Claims 9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Launzel [US Pat No. 4,179,733] in view of Pearce et al [US Pat No. 5,617,572] and further in view of Borgendale et al [US Pat No. 6,457,132].

Launzel and Pearce do not explicitly teach a calendar-type application program that provides reminder notifications to the user and wherein in doing so, awakens the device from the sleep mode when the reminder occurs during sleep mode, and ignores input signals after a predetermined period of time.

Borgendale teaches a method in which a calendar-type application program comprises of a calendar that has event entries. A specific power management mode is

associated with each of the event entries. During the operation of the computer system, when a certain time and date for an entry is reached, the calendar automatically sends the corresponding power management event to the operating system manager. Hence, the mode of power consumption may be altered depending on predetermined event entries in a calendar [col. 3 lines 27-32; col. 3 lines 44-47; col. 3 lines 51-54; col. 3 lines 63-65; col. 4 lines 19-23; col. 5 lines 26-34].

A calendar-type application program similar to that taught by Borgendale may be employed to automatically set the user input interface into a sleep mode by associating event entries in a calendar-type application with a power consumption mode (such as a sleep mode). The event entries in a calendar-type application program may also be associated with notifications that are provided to the user. A notification that occurs in a sleep mode can enable the calendar-type application program to awaken the computer device from a sleep mode.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Launzel and Pearce with Borgendale's concept of controlling the power mode of a device by a calendar-type application program containing predetermined event entries to facilitate the removal of a computer device from sleep mode by providing notifications to the user whereby the notifications are encompassed in event entries of the calendar-type application program.

15. Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Launzel [US Pat No. 4,179,733] in view of Martensson [US Pat No. 5,241,583].

16. As per claim 19, Launzel and Martensson do not explicitly teach displaying

instructions identifying a predetermined input signal to unlock user interface elements, the instructions viewable by a user such that the user ascertains the appropriate signal to unlock the interface.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the teachings of Launzel and Martensson to facilitate the display of instructions identifying a predetermined input signal to unlock user interface elements, the instructions viewable by a user such that the user ascertains the appropriate signal to unlock the interface since a display of the appropriate unlock signal would eliminate the need for the user to remember the unlocking signal.

17. As per claim 20, Martensson further teaches unlocking the user interface elements with the necessary input signal [col. 5 lines 10-21].

18. As per claim 21, Launzel does not explicitly teach a graphical user interface indicating an input signal necessary to unlock the interface elements.

Martensson teaches using an input signal to unlock the interface elements [col. 5 lines 10-21]. Martensson does not explicitly teach a graphical user interface indicating an input signal necessary to unlock the interface elements.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the teachings of Launzel and Martensson since a graphical user interface is a mode to provide an indication to the user and it would be advantageous for appropriate unlocking signal to be displayed to the user to avoid the necessity of remembering the input signal required to unlock the user interface.

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant's arguments filed 2/18/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

20. In the remarks, applicants argued in substance that (1) Launzel does not teach an invention that relates to locking user input elements from inadvertent input on a small computer device, (2) Launzel does not describe the automatic locking of a small computer device, (3) there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of Launzel and Martensson since neither teach the automatic locking of user input elements to prevent inadvertent input and that Martensson teaches a method by which the user input elements can only be locked manually and hence is in direct opposition to that of Launzel, (4) there is no motivation or suggestion to combine the teachings of Launzel and Keen since Keen teaches manual locking of the touch screen and the reasons for locking the user input are different from those of Launzel, (5) There is no motivation to combine the teachings of Launzel and Borgendale since neither teaches a system that automatically locks user input elements using a calendar system.

21. As to point (1), applicant's argument is not pervasive because the features not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

22. As to point (2), the recitation "small computer device" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a

Art Unit: 2115

process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

23. As to point (3), which states that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, while Launzel teaches the automatic locking of user input elements, he does not explicitly teach manually unlocking the user input elements. Martensson teaches the manual unlocking of user input elements by using a correct sequence of keystrokes [col. 5 lines 10-21]. Hence, the motivation to combine the two references is that Martensson facilitates the manual unlocking of user input elements thus eliminating a predetermined wait period for the user input elements to become available for use.

24. As to point (4), which states that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in

Art Unit: 2115

the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Keen teaches a touch screen as a user input device [col. 5 lines 46-50]. The motivation to combine the teachings of Launzel and Keen is that the user input in Keen's teachings is a touch screen. The touch screen eliminates the need for a keypad to enter data and hence contributes to a reduction in size of the small computer device.

25. As to point (5), which states that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Launzel teaches the automatic locking of user input elements. Borgendale teaches the use of a calendar system to manage power using an event calendar [col. 3 lines 27-32; col. 3 lines 44-47; col. 3 lines 51-54; col. 3 lines 63-65; col. 4 lines 19-23; col. 5 lines 26-34]. While Borgendale does not teach automatic locking of user input elements based on the calendar system, the teachings may be modified to lock user input wherein the events in the event calendar indicate times when the user input elements must be automatically locked. Hence, the motivation to combine the teachings of Launzel and Borgendale is to further improve the system by being able to trigger an event (i.e. locking of user input)

on the basis of an event calendar thus defining predefined periods during which all user input must be ignored.

26. Applicant's arguments, see pg.10 line 20 – pg. 11 line 8, filed 2/18/2004, with respect to the rejection(s)of claim(s) 6 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Launzel [US Pat No. 4,179,733] in view of Pearce et al [US Pat No. 5,617,572] as indicated earlier.

27. Applicant's arguments, see pg. 14, filed 2/18/2004, with respect to the rejection(s)of claim(s) 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Launzel [US Pat No. 4,179,733] in view of Pearce et al [US Pat No. 5,617,572] and further in view of Borgendale et al [US Pat No. 6,457,132] as indicated earlier.

Conclusion

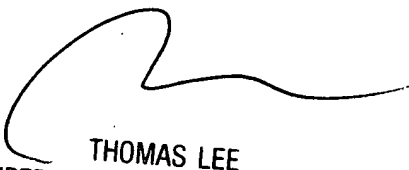
28. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

29. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pranav Chandrasekhar whose telephone number is 703-305-8647. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Lee can be reached on 703-305-9717. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2100.

Pranav Chandrasekhar
April 14, 2004



THOMAS LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100